

STATE OF MICHIGAN

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION-KENT COUNTY

ADULT ADOPTION PROCEDURES

The Michigan Adoption Code permits the adoption of persons over the age of 18.

This Court looks favorably on adult adoption. The primary concern of the Court is to prevent a fraudulent situation where either the adoptee or the petitioner(s) are victimized by the granting of the adoption. The adoption code does require that non-petitioning legal parents, usually a birthparent, be notified of the Adoption Consent Hearing. This parent is not required to attend the hearing and has no right to contest the adoption. However, they can provide information if fraudulent intent is suspected.

The Court takes the position that adult adoptions should be facilitated through the reduction of filing requirements. However, the statutory requirements of the adoption code must still be met, and the Court must insure that the adoption will not be for fraudulent purposes. The following procedure is established to accomplish this end:

1. The following documents and fees are required:
 - a. Filing fee \$110 (\$100/petition fee, \$10/final order of adoption fee, checks made out to the **17th Judicial Circuit Court-Family Division**. Fee is collected when paperwork is filed)
 - b. Petition for Adoption
 - c. Copy of adoptee's birth certificate
 - d. History of adoptive petitioner(s) – Purple form (includes biological parent in a stepparent adoption)
 - e. History of adult adoptee – Yellow form
 - f. Petitioners Verified Accounting
 - g. Statement of Services Performed by Attorney (if applicable)
 - h. The court, on a case by case basis, may require additional materials to insure the best interest of the adoptee will be served.
2. A hearing will be set with a court referee for the adoptee to consent to the adoption. At that hearing the adoptee will be briefly interviewed by the hearing officer.
3. When possible, at least one of the adoption petitioners should attend the hearing. The petitioner will also be briefly interviewed.
4. A report of investigation will be written based on information submitted to the court and from the interviews.
5. The completed file and report will be submitted to the assigned judge for review. If approved, the judge will sign the Order of Adoption.
6. Copies of the Order of Adoption will be sent to both the petitioner(s) and the adult adoptee.
7. The adoptee has the right to request that a new birth certificate be established. The court will send documentation to Vital Records in the state the adoptee was born. Fees vary from state to state. For Michigan births a check should be made out to the **State of Michigan** for \$26. Additional copies are \$5 each. This fee can be submitted when the petition is filed or at the consent hearing.

9/10/02